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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I ask whether Government will be prepared to call for the information in view of the allegations made ?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" I do not think it is necessary to go into it at all."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I want the Government to have inquiry made about the action of the local excise authorities. Will the Government call for the information on this question ?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" I have already replied to the hon. Member for Coimbatore on it."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" That is 'no information will be called for.' "

Liquor shops in Malabar.

376 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Education (Excise) be pleased to state—

(i) whether any local boards, municipalities and unions in South Kanara and Malabar have made applications for restricting the number of liquor shops and which of them and when and to what extent were restrictions sought ;

(ii) which of the applications were rejected or partially granted and on what grounds ?

A.—(i) Two resolutions, one from the Municipal Council, Mangalore, and another from the Municipal Council, Palghat, were received in 1922 and 1924 respectively for the removal of arrack and toddy shops from within the municipal limits.

(ii) The Government were unable to accept the recommendation of the Municipal Council, Mangalore, because even with the existing number of shops in the town, illicit sale of liquor is reported to be common.

No orders have yet been passed on the application from Palghat.

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister for Excise whether, before the recommendation of the Municipal Council of Mangalore was rejected, the local Advisory Committee was consulted ?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—" I am afraid I want notice of the question."

Distillation of liquor from Kaju and other products.

377 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Excise) be pleased to state—

(1) whether any analytical tests have ever been made of the various kinds of fruits (including Kaju) and flowers and other materials suitable for the production of liquor and if so what they are ;

(2) if not, whether the Government will be pleased to have an analysis made of liquor produced therefrom and place its results before this Council ;

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(3) (*a*) whether it is a fact that Kaju fruits and toddy were once largely made use of in South Kanara for manufacturing liquor ;

(*b*) whether in popular estimation such liquor was found less deleterious than that produced by Messrs. Parry & Co. ;

(4) whether it is a fact that there is great discontent among the people in South Kanara on account of the alleged inferior quality and mixture of bad water ;

(5) whether by allowing distillation of liquor from Kaju and other products in each district separately by reliable Indian contractors any loss would result, and if so what ; and

(6) whether liquor of low strength cannot be had without being mixed up with water ?

A.—The Government have no information.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" Will the Government be pleased to call for information on this point ?"

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro :—" It will serve no useful purpose."

Report of Messrs. Strathie and Shanmugam Chettiyar.

378 *Q.*—Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Education (Excise) be pleased to state—

(1) whether orders have been passed on the report of Messrs. Strathie and Shanmugam Chettiyar ;

(2) whether the Government will be pleased to publish the report ; and

(3) what is the excise policy the Government intend to pursue ?

A.—(1) & (2) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 861 at the meeting of the Council held on the 12th March 1923.

(3) The Excise policy is indicated in the note prepared for the Excise Advisory Committee which was placed on the table of the House. The Excise Advisory Committee have not yet completed their enquiry.

Sale of liquor in the Atur taluk, Salem.

379 *Q.*—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether in the experiment now made in the Atur taluk of the Salem district prohibiting the sale of arrack, any provision is made to prevent the increased consumption of cheap foreign liquor like beer the sale of which does not appear to have been prohibited in that area ; and

(*b*) if not, whether the Government contemplate taking any steps to prevent the sale of beer and other foreign liquors in the said area except for medicinal purposes ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) There are no foreign liquor and beer shops in the taluk.

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" May I take it that there are no foreign liquor shops introduced after April 1923 ? "

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro :—" No foreign liquor shops."